

**TOWN OF LA POINTE
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2010
At 4:30 At Town Hall**

I. Called to order at 4:38 PM

Present: Beth Fischlowitz, Greg Nelson, Larry Whalen

Absent: Jim Patterson, Ham Ross

Also present: Mike Starck, Barb Nelson

II. Review 2011 Budget Worksheets & make changes as needed to proposed 2011 Budget

Barb Nelson began by stating that the proposed budget in its current form would require a \$1.993 million-dollar levy: that is the difference between revenue & expenditures.

Since the cap on the levy is \$1.69 million, if the proposed budget remains the way it is, it will need Town approval.

Per a memo from Town Foreman Keith Sowl, the size of the budget request for the Roads department can be dropped \$150,000. According to Sowl, the Ashland County Highway Engineer [Emmer Shields] says that seal coating on South Shore Rd. can wait two to four years.

Ham Ross arrived at 4:45 PM

The consensus of the Board is that \$300,000 needs to be cut from the budget in order to remain under the levy that is allowable without Town approval.

Beth Fischlowitz suggests that \$100,000 can be cut from the Roads budget without hurting any ongoing roads projects. Regarding the capital improvement fund for Big Bay Town Park, since the grant application calls for keeping a \$100,000 fund for matching grants, she suggests cutting \$50,000 from the capital improvement fund since it would contain \$150,000 in the proposed budget.

Discussion followed regarding the 410 Road Grader funding requested in the Roads proposed budget request. It was restated that the 410 Road Grader would not affect the 2011 budget in any way.

Barb Nelson stated that the pay-out for the loan from Northern State Bank is included in the 2010 budget and that the money to pay it will come from reimbursements for the Hagen Road project.

Regarding wages, the Consumer Price Index for September was 1.1%.
Beth Fischlowitz suggests a merit increase for Kathleen Erickson & Barb Nelson.

Discussion followed regarding the designated fund for roads: any money put into designated funds must be designated for a specific project to be accomplished at a stated time.

Regarding the 2011 Fee Schedule, Barb Nelson had a number of questions regarding propane inspections to be done by the fire department Local Authority.

Barb Nelson further stated that the Town Board needs to determine the amount to be placed in the contingency fund. It is usually \$25,000.

She also stated that the end of the year checkbook balance will be approximately \$285,000 including the loan pay-out to Northern State Bank. She suggested that the Town Board might wish to use \$150,000 of this money to reduce the levy.

Motion to divide the 1.5% Accommodation Tax from 2010 in the following way: \$10,000 to the Madeline Island Chamber of Commerce to use on their new website; the balance, along with all of the 1.5% Accommodation Tax from 2011, in a designated fund for Big Bay Town Park improvements. BF/HR 4A MC

Motion to set the 2011 Contingency Fund at \$25,000. HR/LW 4A MC

Jim Patterson arrived at 6:00 PM.

Motion to grant wage increases of 2% to all applicable hourly employees with the exception of the merit increases that were requested by department heads. GN/BF 5A MC

Meeting date to finalize the proposed budget for presentation to the Town: Thursday, November 17, 2010 at 4:30 PM at Town Hall.

III. Discussion & Scheduling of a date for a Public Hearing for the Special Assessment for Miller Farm Rd.: the Public Hearing is set for Monday, December 6, 2010, at 5:00 PM at Town Hall.

IV. Adjournment at 6:15 PM

Approved as submitted on November 23, 2010
Patty Hobin, Town Clerk